U. S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE
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ARMY
EXAMINER

Mr. + Mrs. Charles E. Loops
5418-13th St., N. W.
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A.

S. Frank W. Loops

EXAMINER

432 Sqdn. 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.
November 15, 1943

Hello Folks,

Here I am again. - Been on my ferry trip I told you I was going on. Been on the go since 8 this morning and only landed back at the base here just beating darkness at 5:30. A solid day of it. - Not any real hard work but it turned out to be one of these days where everything possibly that could go wrong - did! - There's only one consolation - and that is that I hope it all got over with in one day, for if it did, I should have no trouble for many more to come! -

Trouble with the plane in many ways including instrument + engine trouble. - Next - getting into a ditch with a command car in which I was riding. - and then more trouble with a strut on my nose gear. - The weather was even against me. - I had to run thru a "cold front" twice (a feat that you wouldn't attempt even once back in the states) - and upon landing here - first I had no supper on the one night we happened to have <u>steak</u> (a major catastrophy over here) - and the final blow of the day (at least I hope nothing else happens) - I received the box of candy Sister sent me and upon opening it, found that it, too, was moldy! - Almost beyond hope of saving, I'm afraid. I put the candy aside, hoping

that tomorrow may make it look different! - But am afraid not. (it was the double tin containing fudge + fudge with peanut butter).

It all isn't quite as bad as it sounds, tho. - It was a lot of fun fighting the elements. - You see, - besides fighting - I had to take observations thru-out, for with our limited weather forecasting over here - a lot of it depends on the pilots reporting observations taken while in flight. - When we run into something unusual like this - we always make notes + turn them in to our weather officer who studies them and transmits them to weather stations. - It is only by these means that they can forecast accurately. - Well, you know how I have always liked meteorology so I really try to turn in a good set of notes. - It's lots of fun.

And the candy! - Honestly, - I guess I don't ~~be~~ live right or something. Others receive theirs in good order, but do I? - Don't know why it should be. Regular store candy comes thru fine - and most cake (fruit cake) and cookies. - Tho I do notice most of the cookies are of the "dry" kind and often - are indiviually wrapped in waxed paper. Don't know why that should help - but theirs do and mine don't! - Think I shall end this with a request for more - just for the heck of it to see if I will continually be plagued with "mold"!

—— Friday - Nov. 19,

The best part of a week has gone by since I started this so guess if I don't finish it this time, I'd better throw it away and start anew. - As it is, I'll probably try to sneak by for this week and the one coming up all on

3/ this! - You don't really blame me, do you?

Have had two ferry trips this week - Another since I started my letter. - Went up to Sardinia - (I don't think it's a secret - any more than going to Sicily - and that's allowable) It's quite a place. The natives are strictly the poorer type of peasant, but at least they look better than Arabs: - Poor things. - I suppose most of them are wondering what it is all about, - (and so are millions of others, I suppose) The kids have already learned to yell "American Cigarette" when you see one. - The older people just sit + stare, or stand and stare. One old fellow I saw along the road raised his hand in the Facist Salute as we passed - Not by way of being resentful - he just wanted to greet us and I suppose that method was used without his even being aware of that not being our "sign". - Some people, tho, are openly resentful to Americans, they say: Because of some of the bombing we've done. I only saw one case of it -. We were riding along in a command car to one of the offices and passed a ~~cot~~ couple of carts. - Both were driven by just boys - and the rear one (we were overtaking them) - we darn near hit due to our driver's daydreaming or something. Anyway - that little fellow was mad at us and cussed us out - you could plainly tell. But he had a right to do that - anyone ~~one~~ would have. Tho the first

fellow ~~to~~ hadn't seen this near accident - we also received an earful of abuse from him. Accompanied with a most resentful glare! - There you are - one was mad for the moment - with good cause, and the other - maybe with good cause, too, was just made. - It isn't hard to realize that the natives of places like that are in a bad spot, as far as our bombing them goes, - and have been fed some truly awful stories about us by the Germans & until lately, the Italians, ~~[illegible]~~. When I see people like these - I often wonder, ~~[illegible]~~, - just what must go on in their minds? Their opinions will change soon enough I imagine, tho, once they see we (the Americans) mean no harm to them or their lands, and we start to feed them as we have everywhere else.

I also saw an Italian plane - a torpedo-Bomber. I went over to the plane - and had quite a conversation with the pilot - me in my Spanish & he in his Italian. One fellow, tho, spoke better English than I do. - He had spent several summers, before the war, running around with a bunch of American College students! - The pilot took me all over his plane and explained things to me. It seems that they have changed the markings on their planes and if the occasion arises - they may fly them around about to transact their business. Don't know what the deal is on it - and couldn't say if I did - as they say - "Confusion but amusin".

This morning my day started at five o'clock.- Oh, it was cold, then!- I thought about you folks- probably hadn't even gone to bed at eleven o'clock. What a life.- Anyway, now that we are back, I'm sitting around in my shirt sleeves.-(No peeking, but I've got on the upper part of some "long handles" under my shirt!) It is quite a change tho when you consider this morning I had on my light under shirt, heavy under shirt, shirt, sweater, flying suit, and big fur lined flying jacket!- Was none too warm, either. Don't know what we will do when winter really comes!- Even now it gets down to about 10°F at where we fly and you'll agree that's a bit cool.

Say,- whats this? Today I got a copy of the Times-Herald! That makes thats the "Post", both!- What are you trying to do swamp the mail service?- It did go good, tho.- I noted it was subscribed to for a month, so I'll let several come and then I'll make up my mind which I prefer.- Except for the different comics there is no use in both coming thru.- Thanks a lot,

Believe I wrote you last night about receiving the Hersheys from Fred.- They came thru in good order & sure did hit the spot.- I've given at least half of them away but am imediately going to hid and ration the rest to me!- But what else are they for, but to eat?- We all enjoy them.- It made them even more welcome after my other "moldy" failures - and helped take the sting out of the "others" being

"moldly"! - a wonderful service! Don't know why the fudge, brownies, cake, & what not went bad. - Could it be that you packed them while still hot? Have noticed, too, that in some of the packages others get o.k., the cookies or candies are individually wrapped. - Regular commercial candy comes thru o.k., too, so it must be something in that, huh?

(Just read my old part written on the 15th - Didn't realise I was repeating, so please excuse?)

Am enclosing a picture made at our presentation of the Airman's Medal. - It's made on our field showing some planes. - The planes are the only reason this might be censorable but any flying magazine shows lot more details of them so see no harm in letting this go.

Because Buckert is a Capt., he heads the formation for our squadron. - These are officers & enlisted men all together - Officers in the front and the others behind. As each man's name is called - he walks forward to the General, the gen. pins the ribbon on, shakes his hand & congratulates him - then each man returns to his proper place as soon as he has completed the rituals - nawthin to it. In case you haven't seen me yet - I'm third man, front row, - from the end nearest you as you look at the picture.

Well, - about time to go to the movie. - Red Skelton in "I dood It" is playing. - Old or new I haven't seen it so am on my way! -

'Bye now - and Lots of Love.

Frank